

# Assignment 4: Kafka Streams

**Due date: Wednesday August 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00pm Waterloo time**

**ECE 454: Distributed Computing**

Instructor: Dr. Wojciech Golab  
[wgolab@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:wgolab@uwaterloo.ca)

# A few house rules

## **Collaboration:**

- groups of 1, 2 or 3

## **Managing source code:**

- do keep a backup copy of your code outside of ecelinux
- do not post your code in a public repository (e.g., GitHub free tier)

## **Software environment:**

- test on eceubuntu and ecetesla
- code using Java 11
- **Kafka 2.4.1**, client code provided on ecelinux and server hosted on [manta.uwaterloo.ca](http://manta.uwaterloo.ca)
- **Apache ZooKeeper 3.4.13**, hosted on [manta.uwaterloo.ca](http://manta.uwaterloo.ca)

# Overview

- In this assignment, you will implement a simple real-time stream processing application using the **Kafka Streams API**.
- A partial implementation of the application is provided in the starter code tarball.
- Your goal is to complete the code so that it meets the functional and non-functional requirements.
- **ZooKeeper and Kafka are provided on [manta.uwaterloo.ca](http://manta.uwaterloo.ca) on the default ports (2181 and 9092, respectively).**
- ZooKeeper is provided only because it is needed by Kafka. Your Java code should not interact with ZooKeeper directly. Use Kafka utilities to create topics, reset applications, etc.

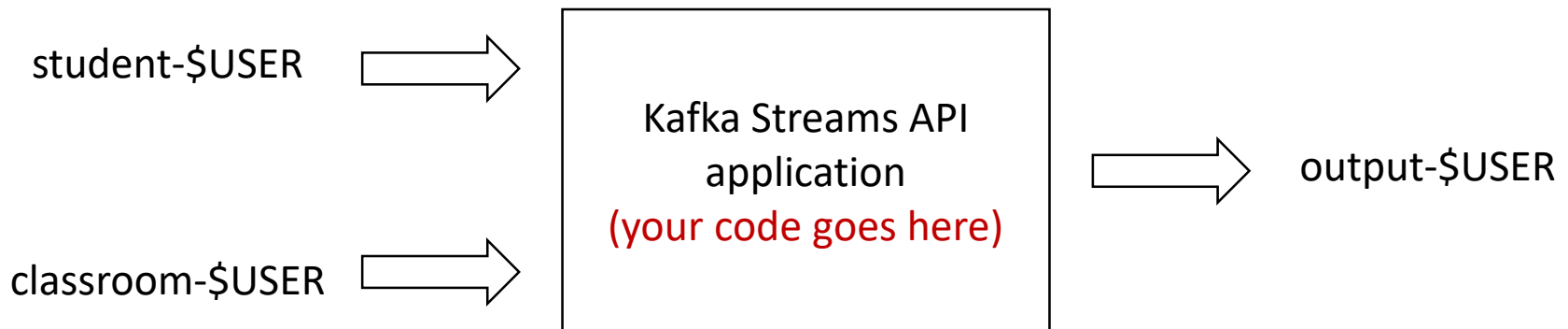
# Learning objectives

Upon successful completion of the assignment, you will know how to:

- process incoming messages from a topic and output messages to a topic using the **Kafka Streams API** (not to be confused with the Streams Processor API).
- use functional programming to manipulate streams
- use Kafka state stores
- use Kafka serializers and deserializers

# Inputs and outputs

Your Kafka application will consume input records from two topics, and will produce output records to a third topic. The names of the topics will be provided at runtime as command line arguments to your program.



**Note:** The variable `$USER` denotes your Nexus user ID.

# Inputs

- Your application will consume records from two Kafka topics containing information regarding students and classrooms, respectively.
- The first topic provides info on students and their whereabouts. Each message is a string key-value pair of the following form:  
Student\_ID,Room\_ID
- The second topic provides info on classrooms and their capacity. Each message is a string key-value pair of the following form:  
Room\_ID,max\_capacity
- The key and value are separated by one comma, with no whitespace around the comma.

# Input examples: classroom topic

- In the following example, RoomA is assigned a maximum capacity of 10, then RoomB is assigned a maximum capacity of 10, and finally the maximum capacity of RoomB is increased from 10 to 15.
- Sequence of messages written to classroom topic:
  - RoomA,10
  - RoomB,10
  - RoomB,15
- **Note 1:** The capacity of a room can increase, as shown above, and it can also decrease.
- **Note 2:** If not specified, the capacity of a room is unlimited.

# Input examples: student topic

- In the following example, Student100 enters RoomB, then Student200 enters RoomB, and finally Student100 moves from RoomB to RoomA.
- Sequence of key-value messages written to student topic:
  - Student100,RoomB
  - Student200,RoomB
  - Student100,RoomA
- **Note 1:** A student can be in at most one room at any given time.
- **Note 2:** A student can enter a room that is already at capacity or above capacity. Thus, rooms can overflow.



# Output

- The goal of the application is to output (i.e., commit to the output topic) the names of rooms for which the current occupancy exceeds the maximum capacity, along with some additional information. For each such room, the application should output a string key-value pair of the following form:  
Room\_ID,current\_occupancy
- If the occupancy of a room is decreased subsequently to a value equal the capacity, or if the capacity is increased to a value greater than or equal the occupancy, the application should output a string key-value pair of the following form:  
Room\_ID,OK

# Example of inputs and output

**student topic**

Student100,RoomA

Student200,RoomA

Student300,RoomA

Student400,RoomA

Student100,RoomB

Student200,RoomB

Student300,RoomB

**classroom topic**

RoomA,2

RoomB,2

**output topic**

RoomA,3

RoomA,4

RoomA,3

RoomA,OK

RoomB,3

time

# Requirements

1. The application should be configured so that each input message is consumed and processed in **around one second** or less. For example, if the occupancy of a room increases beyond the maximum capacity then the corresponding output record should be committed to the output topic within around one second.
2. The implementation must **tolerate crash failures**. One of the cases tested by the grading script will crash your application after publishing several messages to the input topics, then restart your application and publish more messages to the input topics. Your stream application must resume processing and publish messages to the output topic as if the crash failure did not occur.

# Notes

1. The correct output depends not only on the messages supplied in the input streams, but also on the order in which student and classroom messages are processed. **The grading script will only publish to one topic at a time, in a single thread. It will wait at least two seconds between switching topics. It may switch topics back and forth several times.**
2. If a student enters a room for which there is no room data, then assume that the room's max capacity is unlimited.

# Packaging and submission

- All your Java classes must be in the default package.
- You must use the Streams API. The mainline of your application goes in `A4Application.java`. A partial implementation and build script are provided. You may create additional Java files if you like.
- Do not change the structure of the command line arguments of the provided `A4Application` program.
- The classpath for this assignment comprises all the jar files packaged with Kafka under `kafka_2.11-2.4.1/libs`.
- Use the provided `package.sh` script to create a tarball for electronic submission, and upload it to the appropriate LEARN dropbox before the deadline.
- The list of group members should be provided in a text file called **group.txt**, as in earlier assignments.

# Grading scheme

## Evaluation structure:

Correctness of outputs: 100%

Penalties of up to 100% will apply in the following cases:

- the solution does not use Kafka Streams
- grading script cannot see the output because the application takes too long (i.e., several seconds instead of roughly one second) to produce the output after a state change
- solution cannot be compiled or throws an exception during testing despite receiving valid input
- solution produces incorrect outputs
- solution is improperly packaged

# Additional info and hints

# Creating and resetting topics

- The two input topics and the output topic must be created prior to running your application.
- You may also want to purge the messages in these topics occasionally during testing.
- The starter code includes a script called `reset_topics.sh` that performs both functions. It first deletes all three topics and then (re)creates them.
- You may assume that each topic will have only one partition when your code is executed by the grading script.



# Resetting your application

- Some stream processing applications use stateful operators, like *count*. These operators maintain state in a fault-tolerant manner using Kafka state stores.
- In addition, Kafka keeps track of which messages have been consumed by your application.
- You may want to reset this internal state prior to each run, which entails performing a local reset via the `KafkaStreams` class, as well as a global reset via the `kafka-streams-application-reset.sh` utility provided in Kafka.
- The starter code includes a script called `reset_app.sh` that performs both types of reset on your application.

# Producing inputs

- The `producer_student.sh` and `producer_classroom.sh` scripts provided with the starter code are wrappers around the Kafka command line producer utility.
- They allow you to enter key-value pairs into the input topics using the console.
- The key and value are entered on one line, separated by a comma with no spaces around it.
- Remember to shut the producers down before running `reset_topics.sh` or `reset_app.sh`, as otherwise the input topics may not be reset correctly.

# Consuming outputs

- The `consumer.sh` script provided with the starter code is a wrapper around the Kafka command line consumer utility.
- It allows you to dump the output of your application to the console.
- Remember to shut the consumer down before running `reset_topics.sh` or `reset_app.sh`, as otherwise the output topic may not be reset correctly.

# Additional guidelines

- Use built-in Kafka Stream API features as much as possible instead of rolling your own code for fundamental stream operations.
- You may use the default state store for stateful stream operators. Do not bypass Kafka's state store by storing data (e.g., number of students in each classroom) in ordinary program variables.
- Setting the `CACHE_MAX_BYTES_BUFFERING_CONFIG` property to zero should ensure that the application produces outputs in a timely manner (i.e., around one second). This is done for you in the mainline of the starter code.
- Using Kafka correctly will ensure that your application is fault tolerant. We will simulate client failures only during grading, and this will be done in the usual way (i.e., using `kill -9`).